

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03702 192232Z

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ACTION AF-08

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O R 191636Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5256

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3702

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WA, PDEV

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CALL FOR INTERIM GOVERNMENT

REF: PRETORIA 3594

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PRESS AND RADIO HAVE REPORTED DURING PAST FEW DAYS THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED IN WINDHOEK ON FORMATION OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT FOR SOUTH WEST AFRICA, LEADING TO FULL INDEPENDENCE ON DECEMBER 31, 1978. UNDER NEW YORK DATELINE, IT WAS REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR BOTHA HAD GIVEN UNSYG WALDHEIM A MESSAGE TRANSMITTING THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE TURNHALLE
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03702 192232Z

COMMITTEE SETTING DECEMBER 31, 1978, AS THE DATE FOR THE

TERRITORY'S INDEPENDENCE. PRESS SPECULATED THAT THIS IS, IN EFFECT, SOUTH AFRICA'S RESPONSE TO THE AUGUST 31 DEADLINE.
END UNCLASSIFIED

2. COLORED DELEGATION LEADER ANDREW KLOPPERS TELEPHONED EMBASSY MORNING AUGUST 19 FROM WINDHOEK TO REQUEST THAT HIS IMPENDING IV VISIT TO THE US ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AUGUST 29 BE POSTPONED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12 OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER (SEPTEL). HE EXPLAINED TO POL COUNS THAT WHILE HE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, THERE ARE SERIOUS HURDLES YET TO BE OVERCOME WHICH REQUIRE HIS ASSISTANCE. KLOPPERS SAID THAT AFTER THE COLORED, HERERO AND DAMARA DELEGATIONS, WITH TSWANA SUPPORT, HAD TABLED THREE SEPARATE RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR EARLY INDEPENDENCE AND SOME KIND OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT, THESE THREE RESOLUTIONS HAD BEEN COMBINED IN THEIR ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS, LEAVING UNRESOLVED SOME DIFFERENCES OVER TIMING AND SPECIFIC FORM OF THE INTERIM MULTIRACIAL GOVERNMENT ENVISAGED. WHITE DELEGATION HAD THEN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 1978, AS TIME FOR FULL INDEPENDENCE. THIS HAD MADE POSSIBLE THE RELEASE OF BRIEF COMMITTEE STATEMENT WHICH AMB BOTHA HAD HANDED TO UN OFFICIALS.

3. KLOPPERS CAUTIONED THAT THE AGREEMENT OF THE WHITE DELEGATION TO AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND THE DATE OF DECEMBER 31, 1978, WAS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AND NO MORE. BLACK AND BROWN DELEGATES ASSUME THAT CONSERVATIVES DU PLESSIS AND VAN ZIJL WERE INSTRUCTED BY PRETORIA TO OFFER SUCH AGREEMENT SO THAT SOMETHING COULD BE GIVEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BEFORE THE AUGUST 31 DEADLINE. CONSERVATIVE WHITES ARE, HOWEVER, STRONGLY OPPOSED TO GIVING POWER AND AUTHORITY TO ANY MULTIRACIAL INTERIM GOVERNMENT AT AN EARLY DATE, AND WOULD PREFER TO STAY WITHIN THE ORIGINAL PLAN OF WORKING OUT SOME FORM OF CONSTITUTION BEFORE ANY TRANSFER OF POWER TAKES PLACE. THEREIN LIES KEY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM AND CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN DIRK MUDGE.

4. COMMENTING THAT HE HAD JUST EMERGED FROM A PRIVATE MEETING WITH MUDGE, KLOPPERS SAID MUDGE HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED HIM TO REMAIN IN WINDHOEK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DIFFICULT TASK
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PAGE 03 PRETOR 03702 192232Z

OF HAMMERING OUT AGREEMENT ON THE FORM AND POWERS OF THE PROPOSED INTERIM MULTIRACIAL GOVERNMENT. MUDGE IS EXPECTED TO WIN LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONAL PARTY OF SWA AT ITS CONGRESS NEXT WEEK, SAID KLOPPERS, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL IF THE ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE IS TO BE GIVEN REAL SUBSTANCE. THE FULL TURNHALLE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO RESUME SESSION AUGUST 30 OR 31 AND REMAIN IN SESSION UNTIL ABOUT SEPT. 11 OR 12, BY WHICH TIME IT IS HOPED THAT A COMPLETE

RESOLUTION CAN BE AGREED UPON FOR PRESENTATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA. KLOPPERS SAID THAT IT WAS HOPED THAT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT COULD BE GIVEN SPECIFIED POWERS AND BEGIN TO OPERATE BY MARCH OF 1977 AT THE LATEST. DRAFTING OF DETAILS OF CONSTITUTION FOR SWA WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME THEREAFTER, KLOPPERS ADDED.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, DEPT FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNSELOR EKSTEEN SAID THAT UNUSUAL STEP OF RELEASING STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE HAD BEEN TAKEN "BECAUSE AGREEMENT WITHIN THAT COMMITTEE IS AS GOOD AS AGREEMENT OF CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE, SINCE ALL DELEGATIONS ARE REPRESENTED, AND IF WE WAITED FOR ALL THE USUAL FORMALITIES AND DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT, MANY IMPORTANT DEADLINES WOULD PROBABLY PASS. THE INTEREST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN WHAT IS GOING ON MADE IT NECESSARY FOR US TO KEEP THEM FULLY INFORMED." EKSTEEN ALSO NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS REMAIN TO BE DETERMINED, AND THAT THESE MUST BE TAKEN UP IN ORDERLY FASHION. HE AGREED THAT NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS NEXT WEEK WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON COURSE OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. EKSTEEN FURNISHED EMBASSY WITH TEXT OF COMMITTEE STATEMENT AS IT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UN AUTHORITIES, WHICH WE ASSUME IS ALREADY AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT. HE ADDED THAT SAG ACCEPTS COMMITTEE'S STATEMENT AS EXPRESSION OF WHAT PEOPLE OF AREA WANT. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAD RESPONDED TODAY TO LOCAL PRESS INQUIRY IN THAT VEIN, NOTING THAT HE HAD SAID BEFORE THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO HONOR THE DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE OF SWA EVEN IF THEY DID NOT COINCIDE WITH HIS OWN OPINIONS. EKSTEEN ADDED THAT HE WAS IN PROCESS DRAFTING SPEECH "FOR HIGH OFFICIAL" WHO WOULD ADDRESS SUBJECT IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

6. COMMENT: (A) SAG HAS ALMOST CERTAINLY INSTRUCTED WHITE DELEGATION TO EXPRESS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE IN EFFORT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 PRETOR 03702 192232Z

PRODUCE SOMETHING PRIOR TO THE AUGUST 31 DEADLINE. SAG TIME-TABLE FOR INDEPENDENCE IN A PERIOD OF TWO OR THREE YEARS REMAINS UNCHANGED, AND IT HAS RELINQUISHED NO AUTHORITY AS YET. WORDING OF STATEMENT SUGGESTS SAG DESIRE TO APPEAR FORTHCOMING IN HOPE OF DEFLECTING ANY STRONG ACTION BY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

(B) KLOPPERS' DESCRIPTION OF SEQUENCE IN ESTABLISHING INTERIM GOVERNMENT IS AT SHARP VARIANCE WITH THAT SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE STATEMENT, IN THAT STATEMENT SAYS THAT CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS MUST FIRST BE AGREED UPON AND NUMBER OF SPECIFIC NEGOTIATIONS WITH SAG MUST FIRST BE CONCLUDED BEFORE RPT BEFORE INTERIM GOVERNMENT CAN BE SET UP. WE CANNOT SEE THAT MUCH HAS BEEN GAINED BY BLACK AND BROWN DELEGATIONS WITH STATEMENT UNLESS SEQUENCE IS CHANGED OR NEW PROCEDURES

AGREED UPON IN SUBSEQUENT ACTION BY COMMITTEE OR CONFERENCE.
PERHAPS MUDGE HAS THIS STRATEGY IN MIND ONCE HE GAINS CONTROL
OF SWA NATIONAL PARTY AS HE EXPECTS TO DO.
BOWDLER

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